

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 NEA-10 /110 W
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P R 120908Z APR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0403
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0999

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG SF WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA APPROACH IN PEKING

REF: PEKING 962

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ARNAUD PRESENTED NAMIBIA PROPOSAL, AIDE
MEMOIRE AND ORAL EXPLANATION TO MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR LING CHING APRIL 11.

2. LING SAID THAT VICE MINISTER HO YING (WHO NORMALLY
HANDLES AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND WOULD HAVE RECEIVED ARNAUD

IF HAD NOT BEEN OCCUPIED WITH VISITING GHANIAN DELEGATION)
HAD READ PROPOSAL AND WAS FAMILIAR WITH WESTERN POSITION.
PRC VIEW, ACCORDING TO LING, WAS THAT TOTAL INDEPENDENCE
OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND THE WESTERN
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MEMBERS SHOULD RESPECT THIS REASONABLE DEMAND. ON THE
OTHER HAND, THE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD WORK TO PREVENT
THE SOVIETS FROM GAINING ANY FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR
INFILTRATION IN AFRICA. LING SAID THAT THE FIVE
WESTERN MEMBERS SHOULD FOLLOW THE WISHES OF THE
AFRICANS AND CONSULT WITH THEM.

3. ARNAUD NOTED THAT WE HAD HAD NUMEROUS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRONTLINE STATES AND THEY SEEMED TO APPRECIATE OUR POSITIONS. SWAPO ALSO SEEMED FAVORABLY DISPOSED. THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP HOPED THAT THE PRC WOULD TAKE INTO OUR CONSIDERATION THIS APPROACH WHEN TALKING TO CONCERNED AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS.

4. IN MAKING A PLEA FOR MORE PRESSURE FROM THE WEST ON SOUTH AFRICA, LING MADE A PARALLEL WITH THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID THAT JUST AS THE US SHOULD LEAN MORE HEAVILY ON ISRAEL AND "NOT TREAT IT LIKE A TREASURE" IN ORDER NOT TO LOSE THE ARAB WORLD, SO SHOULD PRETORIA BE SUBJECTED TO MORE PRESSURE TO AVOID A SITUATION FAVORABLE TO THE SOVIETS.

5. THE FRENCH CONCLUDED FROM LING'S REACTION THAT THE PRC REALIZED THE WESTERN MEMBERS WERE ENGAGED IN A SERIOUS MAJOR EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE NAMIBIA PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH IT WAS TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT THEY WOULD VOICE APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL, WHICH THEY COULD NOT DO UNLESS THE FRONTLINE NATIONS AND SWAPO WERE UNRESERVEDLY POSITIVE ABOUT THE PLAN, THEY AT LEAST WERE NOT BADLY DISPOSED TOWARD IT.
WOODCOCK

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